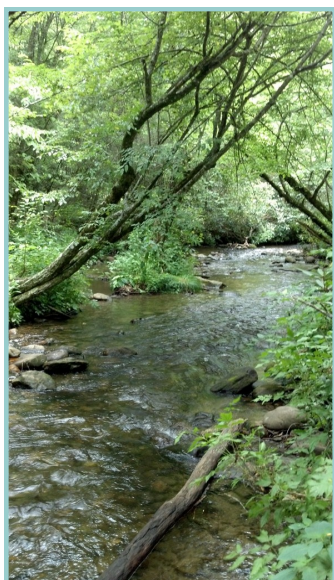


2012-2013

Opportunities in Conservation and Environmental Education

Sponsored by Swain Soil & Water Conservation District

9-12 Students



Deep Creek, a proposed site for surveying
benthic organisms

Hello!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Education Coordinator for the Swain Soil and Water Conservation District. I'm a recent graduate from W.C.U. where I received my B.S. degree in Environmental Science. Currently, I'm in the process of obtaining my Environmental Educators Certification through the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

After being hired by the District only a short time ago I've quickly learned there are some interesting ways students have been participating as active stewards of the environment. Student organizations such as FFA, EAC, and Envirothon teams are without a doubt aiding to the development of responsible, proactive members of our community. I am encouraged by their actions and look forward to hearing great things about these students!

Up until now, the extent of the District's outreach has been primarily focused on elementary students. I have lots of new ideas combined with a sincere desire to promote outdoor learning experiences. The types of topics I would like to cover include environmental ethics, global climate change, and sustainability. This material requires scientific analysis and research in addition to critical thinking skills. I hope to challenge students, as many of you do, so they may think interdisciplinary in order to explore global environmental issues.

Please, consider the unique outreach opportunities offered by the District. It would be my pleasure to serve as a resource to Swain County educators and their students.

Thank You,
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SWAIN BIG SWEEP

This year, the District will sponsor the Swain County extension of NC Big Sweep. As an annual statewide cleanup, Big Sweep has made some major progress in removing litter that would otherwise persist in the environment. Since 1987, Big Sweep volunteers have collected over 10.7 million pounds of debris.

On **October 6th** local volunteers will make their contribution to the cause. If you would like to get involved contact the District office or visit www.ncbigsweep.org

Supplies provided!!
Warm breakfast* and door prizes!
*While it lasts!

New Century Scholars should
consider this as
community service hours

DISTRICT CONTEST Computer Generated Poster



Annually, the District sponsors a series of Conservation themed contests.

The theme this year is Water...the cycle of life

High school freshmen are eligible to enter the computer generated poster contest. Using programs like Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Photoshop students are encouraged to design creative artwork that depicts the significance of water resources.

1st place winner will compete on the Area I level and may continue to be judged on the State and National level.

Ca\$h prizes offered to students including their participating teacher!

Deadline for poster entry: **January 15th**

See Soil & Water office for details

ENVIROTHON



Thanks to Mr. Mike Davis, Swain High students are regular competitors

This is an exciting competition for five member teams of middle school and high school students to engage in relevant and challenging topics in conservation. As a team, students will compete in topics in **Aquatics**, **Soils**, **Forestry**, **Wildlife**, and **Current Environmental Issues**.

There are **cash prizes** and **scholarships** awarded to the highest scoring teams. For those who claim first place, Envirothon participants may continue on in state and national level competitions (sponsored by Canon).

Preparation and dedication are KEY! Training must begin early!!

Area level competition is scheduled for late **March**
Scholarships and cash awards for winning teams
visit <http://ncenvirothon.org> for more information

Resource Conservation Workshop (RSW)

Each year, the District sponsors one rising sophomore, junior, or senior to attend a week long, **expense paid** trip to North Carolina State University.

This opportunity is meant for one lucky student from each county in N.C. to explore careers and issues related to natural resources.

Day to day students will participate in hands on activities covering:

- Soil characteristics and conservation
- Wildlife & Fisheries management
- Forest Management
- Nonagricultural Uses for Soils
- Water Quality & Watershed Management

Those interested must submit an application by **May**

**** Students are eligible once they are nominated by a teacher**

Workshop scheduled for late **June**

Scholarships and cash awards granted during trip!